



New England Ratepayers Association

April 19, 2016

Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
pamela.monroe@sec.nh.gov

Re: Docket No. 2015-06 Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire DBA Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The New England Ratepayer Association wishes to submit the following comments supporting the Time Frame Established Under RSA 162-H:7.

The SB 99 and SB 245 legislative processes were painstakingly inclusive, encompassing a diverse and representative group of stakeholders such as industry, environmental organizations, business and ratepayer interests among others. SB 99 called for contracting with an outside vendor, ultimately Jonathan Raab of Raab Associates, to study the Site Evaluation Committee and its processes.

The two hundred and twenty-nine page “Raab Report” was the byproduct of five citizen workshops, seven focus groups and a “Coordinating Committee”—with the intent being to make recommendations to the legislature regarding the SEC. These recommendations were in part used to draft SB 245 and, after amendments, the passage and codification of SB 245 rendered language in RSA 162-H:7 clearly stating that, “Within 365 days of the acceptance of an application, the committee shall issue or deny a certificate for an energy facility”.

Extending the time frame now would not only be inconsistent with state law, but also lacks common sense. Should the SEC at any time during the proceedings determine that it is in the public interest to extend the time frame, it can suspend deliberations under RSA 162-H:14. Extending the time frame now is unnecessary and would set a terrible precedent that will be used to impede future energy projects.

With 8,000 MW (25%) of New England’s generation capacity either retired or expected to retire by the end of the decade, new, reliable baseload power will be needed to provide stability to the New England power grid. Unfortunately, past policy decisions in the region have left us with two options for baseload power—natural gas and large-scale hydropower. Each of these resources have faced opposition for a variety of reasons. Our businesses and families deserve a

process that balances the needs of docket participants without unduly delaying projects.
Extending the time frame on the Northern Pass docket would do just that.

As an organization dedicated to protecting individual and business ratepayers from policies that result in higher electricity rates we strongly encourage the SEC to preserve the time frame established in RSA 162-H:7.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marc Brown
President
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